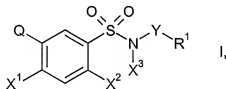


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A compound which is a benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I



in which the variables are as defined below:

X<sup>1</sup> is ~~hydrogen or~~ halogen;

X<sup>2</sup> is chlorine;

X<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen; ~~or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl~~;

Y is a group -C(A)B;

A is oxygen;

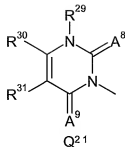
B is oxygen or sulfur;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl, ~~C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkoxy, or~~

phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, wherein C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl may be substituted by C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkoxy or

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxycarbonyl.

Q is



A<sup>8</sup> and A<sup>9</sup> are oxygen;

R<sup>29</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, or amino;

R<sup>30</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> haloalkyl;

R<sup>31</sup> is hydrogen;

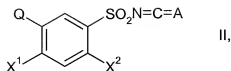
or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 16, in which X<sup>1</sup> is ~~hydrogen~~, fluorine or chlorine.

18. (Canceled.)

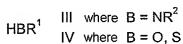
19. (Canceled.)

20. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of claim 16, where X<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, which comprises reacting a benzenesulfonyl iso(thio)cyanate of the formula II



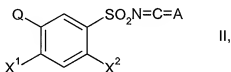
where X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, A and Q are as defined in claim 16,

with an alcohol or thiol of the formula IV



where R<sup>1</sup> is as defined in claim 16.

21. (Withdrawn) A benzenesulfonyl iso(thio)cyanate of the formula II



where X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, A and Q are as defined in claim 16.

22. (Previously Presented) An herbicidal composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 and further comprising auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.
23. (Currently Amended) An herbicidal composition for the desiccation and/or

defoliation of plants, comprising such an amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 that acts as a desiccant and/or defoliant, and further comprising ~~growth-regulating compounds~~ auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.

24. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing herbicidally effective compositions, which comprises mixing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.
25. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing compositions having desiccant and/or defoliant action, which comprises mixing a desiccant and/or defoliant effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 16 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.
26. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, wherein a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 is allowed to act on the unwanted vegetation, their habitat and/or on their seeds.
27. (Withdrawn) A method for the desiccation and/or defoliation of plants, which comprises allowing a desiccant and/or defoliant effective amount of at least one

compound according to claim 16 to act on the plants.

28-39. (Canceled.)